

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

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-44. (Amended) A method for determining a concentration of a target nucleic acid by using PCR, which comprises:

conducting reactions in PCR by using as a primer a nucleic acid probe according to any one of claims 1-17, and

determining an initial concentration of the amplified target nucleic acid from percentage of a change in an intensity of fluorescence occurred as a result of hybridization between said primer or an amplified nucleic acid amplified using said primer and said amplified target nucleic acid.

47. (Amended) A method according to claim 45 or 46 for determining an initial concentration of a nucleic acid amplified in PCR, wherein said PCR is real-time quantitative PCR.

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48. (Amended) A method for analyzing data obtained by a determination method according to any one of claims 18-28 or any one of claims 37-47, further comprising correcting an intensity value of fluorescence in a reaction system, said intensity value being available after said target nucleic acid has hybridized to said nucleic acid probe labeled with said fluorescent dye, in accordance with an intensity value of fluorescence in said reaction system available after a probe-nucleic acid hybrid complex so formed has been dissociated.

49. (Amended) A method for analyzing data obtained by a real-time quantitative PCR method according to claim 47, further comprising, as a correction processing step, correcting an intensity value of fluorescence in a reaction system, said intensity being available in each cycle after said amplified nucleic acid has conjugated to said fluorescent dye or after said amplified nucleic acid has hybridized to said nucleic acid probe labeled with

said fluorescent dye, in accordance with an intensity value of fluorescence in said reaction system

available after a nucleic acid-fluorescent dye conjugate or probe-nucleic acid hybrid complex so formed has been dissociated in said cycle. -

SUPPORT FOR AMENDMENTS

The specification has been amended for clarity and to correct typographical errors.

Support for these amendments can be found in the substitute specification. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendments to the specification.

Claims 44 and 47-49 have been amended for clarity and to correct typographical errors. Support for these amendments can be found in the substitute specification. No new matter is believed to be introduced by the amendments to Claims 44 and 47-49.

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